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THE UTTARANCHAL WOMAN : ROLE AND STATUS

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Uttaranchal region of Uttar Pradesh State, comprising six districts of Almora, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Champawat, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar in Kumaon Division, and six districts of Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudra Prayag, Dehradun, Pauri and Garhwal in Garhwal Division, lies in the central zone of Himalayas. The region covers an area of 51,125 sq. kms. constituting 17.4 per cent of the total area of the state. According to the 1991 census, the population of Uttaranchal stood at 59.26 lakhs which accounts for 4.3 per cent of the state's population. This reflect a growth of 22.55 per cent over 1981 as against 28.48 per cent of the state as a whole. The district-wise rates of growth do not reflect any pattern except that highly urbanized districts of Nainital and Dehradun which have registered the highest rate of growth of around 35 per cent during the last decade.

The Uttaranchal region, forming a major part of Central Himalayas, are regarded as the crown of South-East Asia, because of their tremendous height, unique location, vast potential of natural resources and their gift of water, hydro-power and fertile soil of the northern Indian sub-continent. The region is characterised by undulating topography, rugged and mountainous terrain, varied climate

and texture of soil, limited arable land, preponderance of scattered and marginal holdings, difficult agricultural conditions, inadequate institutional support, long gestation period of projects, relatively higher unit cost of infrastructure development, low returns on investment, etc.

The habitates are sparsely populated and widely scattered. About 78.30 per cent of the total population in the region live in rural areas compared to 80.16 per cent in the state. However, in districts Nainital and Dehradun, about 67.30 per cent and 49.70 per cent of their respective total population reside in rural areas. Quite a sizeable number of villages have scanty population, located in far flung remote areas and are accessible only through trekking. According to 1991 census, 8643 villages, constituting 57 per cent of the total villages, had a population of less than 200 persons and about 89 per cent have less than 500 persons.

One important characteristic feature of the hill districts is the presence of a substantial high proportion of female workers in workforce. Women in general are engaged in low productivity activities in the primary sector. The work participation rate among females is comparatively higher (25.62 per cent) in the hill region than the state average (7.45 per cent). Out-migration of population, particularly among male-members, is one of the most important features of demographic structure. The high incidence of out-migration of able bodied males from the hill areas compels the

womenfolk to step into the local labourforce in large numbers to eke-out at least a subsistence living for their families. Women workers constitute 35.35 per cent (both main and marginal workers) of the female population (as per 1991 census), which is far higher than the corresponding percentage (7.5) in U.P. Thus, female population in Uttarakhand region have a much greater participation in labourforce than in the state as a whole. This clearly reflects the high incidence of out-migration of able-bodied males from the region which increases the burden of work on female workers in addition of their chores. The stark fact is that the female workers of the region are in real sense, the working poor. The drudgery and workload is associated with the hill women from the very beginning of their childhood. A hill woman has to devote 16 to 18 hours in a day in performing the household and non-household work. The studies conducted in this respect highlight the fact that besides the important role of women in the economic and other day-to-day activities of household, they themselves have hardly any time for their own personal development. In fact, there has not been any change in the over-burden of their work on womenfolk and drudgery associated with them even after so many years of all round planned economic development and the specific development programmes of Government for the upliftment and empowerment of womenfolk. It is, therefore, important to identify programmes which may be relevant for the social and economic development of females of the region.

Districts like Bageshwar, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar and Rudra Prayag are newly created and carved out from the old eight districts of Uttaranchal region. Information of these districts are not available. Therefore, our analysis will be of eight districts of U.P. Hills. Uttaranchal region is sparsely populated; its density being only 116 persons per sq. km. as against the average density of 473 for the state. According to 1991 census, the total population of the region was 5926146 (Table 1). The growth rate of population has been 22.55 per cent in 1991 over 1981 in the region with variations in the districts. The growth rate is registered lowest at 7.00 per cent in district Garhwal and highest 35.52 per cent in district Nainital, while the growth rate of population in the state has been 28.48 per cent over the same period. The region witnessed a higher growth rate during the previous decades of 1971-81 and it was 26.52 per cent (Table-1) The two districts Nainital and Dehradun have always shown a comparatively higher rate of growth in population. This is because these districts cover plain areas where the agricultural land is fertile and avenues for employment have considerable scope. Apart from fertility and mortality, the other factor affecting the population growth is migration. The population of any area increases due to births and immigration and decreases on account of deaths and out-migration. Migration data highlight the economic and sociological forces responsible for movement in an area. Migration is generated by many factors, such as education and

marriage, pressure of population on land, generation of employment by development of new areas for cultivation and establishment of industries, large construction work, development of other infrastructural facilities etc.

Table 1 : Trend of Population Growth in the Districts of Uttarakhand Region

District	Total Population			Population Growth Rate	
	1971	1981	1991	1971-81	1981-91
Uttarkashi	147805	190948	239709	29.19	25.54
Chamoli	292571	364346	454871	19.70	24.84
Tehri Garhwal	397385	497710	580159	25.24	16.56
Garhwal	553028	637877	682535	15.34	7.00
Dehradun	577306	761668	1025679	31.93	34.66
Pithoragarh	313747	489267	566408	55.94	15.77
Almora	750098	757373	836617	0.98	10.46
Nainital	790080	1136523	1540174	43.85	35.52
Uttaranchal	3821960	4835712	5926146	26.52	22.55

Source : Census of India, Series I, Paper II of 1992, Final Population Totals.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the region is 16.70 per cent and 3.54 per cent respectively as compared to the respective percentages of 21.00 and 0.20 for the state. The sex ratio in Uttarakhand region is

relatively higher compared to that of the state, being 955 females for 1000 males in the region (Table 2) as compared 879 for the state. When we analyse the data on male and female population according to different social stratas in the region, it is found that sex ratio is substantially higher in General Castes as compared to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. According to 1991 Census, the sex ratio is 959 in General Castes as against 930 in ST and 937 in SC. The variations in the sex ratio clearly indicates that the mortality rate among females is higher in SC and ST population.

As per 1991 census, the female population is 2894305 and male population is 3031841 showing their respective proportions as 48.84 per cent and 51.16 per cent. However, the female population in districts Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal and Almora is more than their male population. As far as the level of urbanization is concerned, it is found that about 21.70 per cent population live in urban areas with marked variations in the districts. In district like Dehradun, more than half of the population live in urban areas while in district Tehri Garhwal only 5.67 per cent population is counted as urban population. If the level of urbanization is recognized as one of the indicators of development for human society, then it is found that the fairer sex is lagging behind in this race in Uttarakhand region. The benefits of improved living conditions and better infrastructural facilities of the urban areas are being availed by 19.77 per

cent of the female population as against 22.79 per cent of the male population (Table 2).

Table 2 : Population and Its Main Features in Uttarakhand Region (1991)

District	Population			Sex Ratio	Density	Percentage of population living in urban areas		
	Total	Males	Females			Male	Female	
Uttarkashi	239709	124978	114731	918	30	8.20	6.10	
Chamoli	454871	227131	227740	1003	50	10.99	6.84	
Tehri Garhwal	580153	281934	298219	1058	131	7.46	3.97	
Garhwal	682535	331371	351164	1060	126	14.37	9.56	
Dehradun	1025679	556432	469247	843	332	50.73	49.58	
Pithoragarh	566408	285297	281111	985	64	8.23	6.58	
Almora	836617	400900	435717	1086	155	7.69	5.20	
Nainital	1540174	823798	716376	870	227	33.14	32.10	
Uttarakhand	5926146	3031841	2894305	955	116	22.79	19.77	

Source : (i) Census of India, 1991, Series I, Paper II.

(ii) Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttarakhand, U.P.
State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.

Looking into the figures of population growth in the region, it is observed that there has been marked variation

in the growth rate of population in males and females. The male population has been increased at a faster rate than the female population. During the period of 1971-81, the male population had been increased by 26.99 per cent while the growth rate of female population had been at 26.04 per cent. A substantial variation had been noted in the growth rate of population of males and females during the same period. Except in two districts of Dehradun and Nainital, where the growth rate of female population was registered higher than the male population, the female population in all other districts of the region has increased at a lower rate than the male population. A similar trend is also observed in the population growth during 1981-91. However, the variation of the growth rate in population is of a lower magnitude.

The literacy level in the Uttarakhand region as recorded by 1991 census is higher than that of the state, both for males and females, as well as average, being 75.51 per cent for males, 42.87 per cent for females and 59.58 per cent for the region, compared to 55.73 per cent, 25.31 per cent and 41.60 per cent for the state respectively (Table-3). Differentials are noticed in the female literacy rates in the districts. The female literacy rate is recorded higher in district Garhwal (49.44 per cent), Dehradun (59.26 per cent) and Nainital (43.19 per cent) than the average literacy rate of females in the region. It is observed that apart from other factors, the distance of educational institutions has its significant influence on the literacy levels.

Table 3 : Decennial Growth of Population in the Districts of Uttarakhand Region

District	Sex-wise Growth Rate of Population			
	1971-81		1981-91	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Uttarkashi	30.45	27.78	23.09	28.31
Chamoli	25.63	23.50	27.36	22.44
Tehri Garhwal	31.31	20.15	18.30	14.97
Garhwal	16.86	13.98	8.62	5.51
Dehradun	28.93	35.83	32.34	37.53
Pithoragarh	57.42	54.83	17.45	14.10
Almora	0.77	1.17	10.14	10.76
Nainital	40.47	48.08	33.43	37.99
Uttaranchal	26.99	26.04	22.85	22.24

Source : Statistical Diary, 1993, Uttarakhand, U.P.
State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.

particularly among females in the hilly region. Due to undulating land terrain, rugged footpath, inhospitable topography, forest cover and wild animals, the parents of remote villages do not prefer to send their girls to the schools. It is evident from the fact that the literacy rate among females is comparatively lower in those districts where the educational institutions are located at greater distance (Table 4). Census of 1971 found 11.49 per cent literacy rate

among females in hill region of U.P. and after ten years this rate reached at 24.11 per cent in 1981. The district-wise data of females' education indicates that the pattern in ranking of the districts has been by and large similar in the last three censuses.

Table 4 : District-wise Literacy Level in Uttarakhand Region

District	1971		1981		1991	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Uttarkashi	37.02	5.37	46.32	9.17	68.74	23.57
Chamoli	47.51	9.58	57.40	18.34	82.02	27.72
Tehri Garhwal	36.38	4.92	47.99	9.42	72.10	26.41
Garhwal	49.32	16.51	56.26	27.13	82.46	49.44
Dehradun	51.71	33.40	61.15	42.03	77.95	59.26
Pithoragarh	49.68	14.69	58.12	20.30	79.44	38.37
Almora	45.89	11.53	56.66	20.27	79.96	39.60
Nainital	41.33	20.17	46.81	27.10	67.88	43.19
Uttarakhand	36.91	11.49	53.84	24.11	75.51	42.87

Source : Census of India, Series I, Paper II of 1992, Final Population Totals.

Noticeable variations are found in the educational levels of female population in the region, when the literacy rates among females of different social groups (castes) are analysed. Overall, in the region, it is found that the

literacy rate among female population of Scheduled Tribes is recorded lowest in all the social groups as accounted by 1991 census. About 19.65 per cent of the females of ST population are literate while this figure is 38.66 per cent for general caste and 21.09 per cent for Scheduled Caste (Table 5). However, castewise figures of literacy among female narrates a peculiar picture when individual districts are separately analysed. In district like Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Almora and Pithoragarh the proportion of female literates in ST population is registered significantly higher as compared to females of other two social groups (Table 5). In these districts, only Bhotia community is ST which is economically better off than other castes and their motivation for education has been greater as a result the educational level among them is higher as compared to other social groups. Prior to Chinese aggression in 1962, the members of Bhotia community in these four boarder districts were engaged in trade and commerce with the neighbouring countries and their business was flourishing. However, after that the ST population have diverted their economic activities and concentrated on household industries (weaving and spinning of woollen clothes) and the females of ST population has adopted this activity as their primary occupation.

On the other hand, the literacy rates of ST females in district Dehradun and Nainital are considerably lower, accounting 14.26 per cent and 16.63 per cent respectively. In these districts the ST population is constituted by Jaunsari

Table 5 : Caste-wise Literacy Rates of Female Population in Uttarakhand Region, 1991

District	General Caste		Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes		Total	
	Female Population	No. of Literacy rates						
Uttarkashi	87124	18587 (21.33)	26512	2789 (10.52)	1095	489 (44.65)	114731	21865 (19.06)
Chamoli	183126	65068 (35.53)	39323	7541 (19.18)	5291	2249 (42.49)	227740	74857 (32.87)
Tehri Garhwal	257076	60294 (23.45)	40794	4091 (10.03)	349	66 (18.91)	298219	64451 (21.61)
Garhwal	304084	133404 (43.87)	46439	12154 (26.17)	641	123 (19.19)	351164	145681 (41.48)
Dehradun	366468	206169 (56.26)	63213	18464 (29.21)	39566	5641 (44.26)	469247	230274 (49.07)
Pithoragarh	215357	73222 (34.00)	56622	11698 (20.66)	9132	3429 (37.55)	281111	88349 (31.43)
Almora	341449	123183 (36.07)	92934	18625 (20.04)	1334	604 (45.28)	435717	142412 (32.68)
Nainital	559757	214868 (38.38)	112912	25617 (22.68)	43707	7267 (16.63)	716376	247752 (34.58)
Uttarakhand	2314441	894795 (38.66)	478749	100979 (21.09)	101115	19867 (19.65)	2894305	1015641 (35.09)

Note : Total Population of females including children below 6 years was taken into account while literacy rate is worked out.

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 1, Part II-B(iii), Primary Census Abstract.

in Dehradun district and Tharu and Buxa communities in Nainital district. These communities are economically backward and agriculture is their main source of livelihood. Due to poverty and lack of motivation, illiteracy is widespread among them. As far as the education among the females of Scheduled Castes population is concerned, it is found that by and large the literacy rate among them is lowest in all the districts of the region. Poverty and backwardness have been main causes for their low level of literacy.

WORK PARTICIPATION AMONG FEMALES

One important characteristic feature of the economy in the hill districts, is the presence of a substantially high proportion of females in the workforce. According to 1991 census, the work participation rate among females is constituted 25.62 per cent in the Uttaranchal region, whereas this figure is 7.45 per cent in the state as a whole (Table 6). However, in the region the main workers among male population is constituted 46.41 per cent which is comparatively lower than 49.31 per cent in the state. Districtwise figures regarding the percentage of main workers among females show a great variation. The proportion of main workers among females is recorded considerably lower in the districts comprising of plain areas, such as Nainital and Dehradun where the respective percentages of female main

Table 6 : Female Work Participation Rate in Uttarakhand Region, 1991

District	Female population	Female main workers	Female marginal workers	Female Non-Workers
Uttarkashi	114731	51632 (45.00)	4829 (4.21)	58270
Chamoli	227740	90968 (39.83)	17875 (7.45)	119167
Tehri Garhwal	298219	108497 (36.38)	29238 (9.80)	160485
Garhwal	351164	83060 (23.65)	46841 (13.34)	221263
Dehradun	469247	50685 (10.80)	18538 (3.95)	400024
Pithoragarh	281111	102567 (36.48)	36469 (12.97)	142075
Almora	435717	168680 (38.71)	47403 (10.88)	219634
Nainital	716376	85755 (11.97)	75889 (10.59)	554732
Uttarakhand	2894305	741573 (25.62)	277082 (9.57)	1875650
Uttar Pradesh	65075330	4851000 (7.45)	3169000 (4.87)	57055000 (87.67)

Source : (i) Statistical Diary, 1993, U.P. Economic and Statistics Department, State Planning Institute, Lucknow, U.P.
(ii) Statistical Diary, Uttarakhand, 1993.

workers are 11.97 and 10.80. Among the districts of hill areas of Uttarakhand the female work participation (main workers) is recorded highest 45.00 per cent in district Uttarkashi. It is 39.83 per cent in Chamoli, 38.71 per cent in Almora, 36.48 per cent in Pithoragarh and 36.38 per cent in Tehri Garhwal.

Similarly the marginal workers among female population are also registered higher in Uttarakhand region as compared to the state as a whole. Marginal workers are constituted 9.57 per cent among female population in the region which is significantly higher than 4.87 per cent in the state. The relatively high proportion of females in the workforce in the region depicts their servitude to the hard economic life of their habitat. Women in general are engaged in low productivity activities in the primary sector. The non-workers among females, which is about 64.80 per cent of the total female population, is comprised of 28.01 per cent female children below 6 years of age. Data on caste-wise distribution of female population categorized as main workers, marginal workers and non-workers reveals a dissimilar pattern of their proportions. In the category of main workers, it is found that the proportion of females belonging to SC was highest 29.17 per cent whereas the corresponding figures for general castes and Scheduled Tribes are 25.09 per cent and 20.92 per cent. The female main workers in General Castes is recorded highest 44.15 per cent

Table 7 : Caste-wise Percentage Distribution of Female Population - Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers, 1991

District	Female Main Workers			Female Marginal Workers			Female Non-Workers					
	General Caste		S.C.	S.T.	General Caste		S.C.	S.T.	General Caste		S.C.	S.T.
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
Uttarkashi	44.15	47.87	43.29	4.12	4.63	1.09	51.73	47.50	55.62			
Chamoli	39.59	40.99	39.22	7.93	7.63	6.58	52.48	51.38	54.20			
Tehri Garhwal	36.65	34.65	38.39	9.71	10.38	11.17	53.64	54.97	50.44			
Garhwal	23.24	26.49	12.95	13.44	12.77	7.02	63.32	60.74	80.03			
Dehradun	8.30	14.05	28.74	2.49	5.59	14.82	89.21	80.36	56.44			
Pithoragarh	37.38	34.16	29.86	12.68	13.82	14.57	49.94	52.02	55.57			
Almora	38.72	38.75	33.21	10.69	11.53	12.22	50.59	49.72	54.57			
Nainital	11.03	17.86	8.80	9.60	11.99	19.66	79.37	70.15	71.54			
Uttaranchal	25.09	29.17	20.92	9.10	10.45	16.21	65.81	60.38	62.87			

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 1, Part II-B(iii), Primary Census Abstract, SC & ST.

in district Uttarkashi and lowest 8.30 per cent in district Dehradun (Table 7). A similar trend is also noticed in the case of female main workers in SC population. However, the proportion of female main workers in ST population is recorded highest 43.29 per cent in district Uttarkashi and lowest 8.80 per cent in district Nainital. As far as marginal workers are concerned, the proportion of females in

this category is recorded highest in ST population. It is 9.10 per cent in general castes, 10.45 per cent in SC and 16.21 per cent in ST (Table 7). District-wise data revealed that female marginal workers in General Castes is registered highest 13.44 per cent in district Garhwal and lowest 2.49 per cent in Dehradun district. In SC population, 13.82 per cent of the females are counted as marginal workers in district Pithoragarh as against 4.63 per cent in district Uttarkashi. The proportion of marginal workers among females of ST population is highest 19.66 per cent in district Pithoragarh and 1.09 per cent in district Uttarkashi.

OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN AMONG FEMALE WORKERS

As it has already been mentioned that the participation rate of females in workforce is high in hill areas. Census 1991 counted 741573 females as workers registering 25.62 per cent of the total female population in Uttaranchal region. Most of the women workers are engaged in primary sector. Agricultural sector is the major source of livelihood in the region as evident by the fact that of the total female workers 89.34 per cent are cultivators and 3.37 per cent are engaged as agricultural labourers (Table 8). The distribution of other female workers engaged in different economic activities reveals that 0.43 per cent are engaged in animal husbandry and plantation activities, 0.72 per cent in household industries, 0.60 per cent in non-household

Table 8 : Percentage Distribution of Female Workers engaged in Different Economic Activities in the Uttarakhand Region

Occupation	Districts								
	Uttar- kashi	Chamoli	Tehri Garhwal	Garhwal	Dehra Dun	Pithoragarh	Almora	Nainital	Uttarkhal
Cultivators	96.09	95.52	97.40	94.00	49.96	95.02	96.48	66.49	89.34
Agricultural labours	0.78	0.50	0.39	1.36	10.75	0.44	0.63	18.24	3.37
Livestock, plantation, etc.	0.26	0.13	0.07	0.18	2.17	0.10	0.12	4.49	0.43
Mining & Quarrying	0.02	-	-	Neg.	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.10	0.02
Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing	0.40	1.43	0.05	0.20	1.15	1.61	0.24	1.15	0.72
Other than household industry	0.09	0.33	0.04	0.21	4.87	0.16	0.10	1.22	0.60
Construction	0.15	0.12	0.27	0.08	0.98	0.04	0.09	0.31	0.20
Trade & Commerce	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.16	3.21	0.10	0.11	0.82	0.39
Transport and storage	Neg.	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.49	0.04	0.03	1.19	0.08
Other services	2.07	1.88	1.72	3.75	26.43	2.48	2.18	9.99	4.85
Total .	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 1, Part II-B(iii) and Series 1, Part II-B(ii)

industries, 0.20 per cent in construction, 0.39 per cent in trade and commerce and 0.08 per cent in transport and storage activities. The category of other services has been adopted as economic activity by 4.85 per cent female workers in Uttarakhand Region (Table 8).

Individual districts have shown great variations in the proportion of female workers engaged in different economic activities when districtwise figures related to occupations are compared. As much as 97.40 per cent female workers are reported as cultivators in district Tehri Garhwal on the one hand and as low as 49.90 per cent in district Dehradun on the other. The proportion of agricultural labourers is found very small in the districts located in hill areas whereas in district Dehradun and Nainital a sizeable proportion of female workers are working as agricultural labourers. In the hill areas the land holding sizes are small in nature whereas the plain areas of district Dehradun and Nainital have large holdings with high fertility which have enough scope to employ workers as agricultural labourers. The proportion of female workers working in livestock and plantation activities varies from 4.49 per cent in district Nainital to 0.10 per cent in district Pithoragarh. Mining and Quarrying activity as an occupation of female workers (very few) is confined to a limited districts, such as Nainital, Dehradun, Almora and Pithoragarh. In manufacturing, processing in household industries, the proportion of female workers is lowest 0.05

per cent in district Tehri Garhwal and highest 1.61 per cent in district Pithoragarh. The female workers are mostly engaged in weaving and spinning activities of woollen cloths in hill districts. However, the percentage of female workers employed in other than household industries is significantly highest in plain areas of district Dehradun and Nainital (Table 8). The similar pattern is found in other occupations such as construction, trade and commerce, transport and storage. The economic infrastructures are comparatively better developed in plain regions of district Nainital and Dehradun as a result avenues for employment in informal sector are available. As a result the female workers are employed in other services at a larger proportion in these two districts.

CASTE-WISE OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN OF FEMALE WORKERS

Occupational pattern of workers is influenced by social groups particularly in the backward economy. In addition to other factors, the economic activities are decided by the caste structure of the society to a great extent. In Uttarakhand region also, caste system has great say in the occupational pattern of female workers. Caste-wise variations are found in the proportions of female workers engaged in different economic activities. Variations are mostly existed in occupations related to agricultural and

manufacturing sectors. Taking Uttarakhand region as a whole, it is found that cultivator as an occupation is adopted by 90.38 per cent female workers of general castes, 86.63 per cent of SC and 76.88 per cent of ST (Table 9). As far as agricultural labour is concerned, about 6.53 per cent female workers in SC and 6.36 per cent in ST are employed in this occupation, whereas in General castes 2.52 per cent female workers are working as agricultural labourers. Here it would be worthwhile to mention that agricultural labourers are found mostly in plain areas of districts Dehradun and Nainital.

Activities related to Manufacturing, Processing and Services have witnessed a marked variations in castewise proportions of female workers engaged in them. Data in this regards reveals that about 11.00 per cent female workers of Scheduled Tribes in the region are employed in manufacturing and processing activities of household industries, whereas the respective proportions of female workers in General castes and Scheduled Castes are merely 0.30 per cent and 0.90 per cent (Table 9). Similarly, in manufacturing and processing activities of other than household industries, the female workers from ST are employed at a larger proportion. In other categories of occupations, the variations are not significant and the female workers of all the castes are, by and large, employed in same proportions.

Table 9 : Castewise Percentage Distribution of Female Workers in Uttarakhand Engaged in Different Categories of Economic Activities

Category of Occupations	General Castes	S.C.	S.T.	All
Cultivators	90.38	86.63	76.88	89.34
Agricultural labours	2.52	6.53	6.36	3.37
Livestock, plantation, etc.	0.40	0.50	0.68	0.43
Mining & Quarrying	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.02
Manufacturing, Processing, Services in Household Industries	0.30	0.90	10.99	0.72
Other than household industry	0.54	0.71	1.75	0.60
Construction	0.16	0.31	0.17	0.20
Trade & Commerce	0.43	0.24	0.42	0.39
Transport and storage	0.07	0.07	0.13	0.08
Other services	5.18	4.05	2.58	4.85
Total Female Workers	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source : Census of India 1991, Series 1, Part II-B(i) and Part II-B(iii).

PARTICIPATION OF FEMALES IN EDUCATION PROCESS

The level of education among the people is reflected by their participation in education process. Pattern of enrolment ratio in the educational institutions is the first

indicator of people's participation in education. Expansion of educational facilities is a necessary but not sufficient condition for increased enrolment ratio. What really is more important is the extent to which these facilities are being utilized by the people. Educational facilities can be proved meaningful only when various sections of society utilize them fully and equitably.

Enrolment of Girl Students in Schools

The female population in Uttarakhand region is lagging behind as far as participation in education is concerned. When we look at the sex-wise figures of students in different stages of education, it is found that the proportion of girls in the total number of students is substantially lower than the boys. Comparative figures related to the proportion of girls in total enrolment of the students in two different years are presented in Table 10. During 1994-95 the share of girls in total number of students was accounted 41.32 per cent in Junior Basic Schools, 36.74 per cent in Senior Basic Schools and 35.13 per cent in High/Higher Secondary Schools. The pattern of girls' proportion in total students shows a declining trend with the increase of educational standard. This clearly indicates that there is higher rate of drop-outs among the girl students.

The individual districts of Uttarakhand shows a noticeable variation in the ratios of girls in total enrolment. During 1994-95, the proportion of girls in total

number of students was found lower in districts of Uttarkashi, Tehri Garhwal and Pithoragarh at Junior Basic Level (Table 10). At Senior Basic School level, the proportion of girls was registered lowest 26.36 per cent and 30.24 per cent in districts Chamoli and Tehri Garhwal. In districts Almora, Tehri Garhwal and Garhwal, the number of girl students was lowest 28.46 per cent, 29.13 per cent and

Table 10 : Participation of Girl Students in Different Standards of Schooling

Districts	Percentage Share of Girls in Total Number of Students Enrolled					
	Jr.Basic Schools		Sr.Basic Schools		High/Hr.Secondary Schools	
	1980-81	1994-95	1980-81	1994-95	1980-81	1994-95
Uttarkashi	27.58	33.66	23.86	35.42	13.99	37.14
Chamoli	39.73	43.34	18.83	26.36	11.01	33.23
Tehri Garhwal	25.74	38.50	14.91	30.24	11.60	29.13
Garhwal	42.97	47.53	26.57	41.62	19.13	30.27
Dehradun	42.99	44.83	41.67	44.30	39.64	64.07
Pithoragarh	36.64	37.24	21.04	37.64	17.07	33.40
Almora	40.13	40.67	20.39	36.40	13.81	28.46
Mainital	37.41	39.37	28.43	36.90	32.84	39.69
Uttaranchal	36.56	41.32	26.35	36.74	26.35	35.13

Source : Educational Progress in Uttar Pradesh (General), 1994-95 (Hindi), Directorate of Education, Allahabad, U.P.

30.27 per cent at High/Higher Secondary School level during 1994-95. The comparative data (Table 10) of two different years regarding the girls ratio in the total enrolment in the schools also highlights the slow progress in the participation of girls in education in the Hill region. District-wise figures of girls students indicate that the ratio of girls in total enrolment is lower in the districts where the educational institutions are located at a comparatively greater distance.

Location of Educational Institutions

Expansion of educational facilities is not itself a deciding factor for peoples' participation in education. Location of educational institutions has great relationship with the enrolment of children in the schools, particularly in the hill regions. Due to adverse geo-physical conditions, inhospitable land terrain, uncertain weather and fear of wild animals, the parents do not prefer to send their children to schools which are located at distant places. We have computed the data about the location of the educational institutions for girls in Uttarakhand region to have a clear picture of schools according to their distances (Table 11). The analysis of data regarding the distances of schools for girls reveals that about 76.11 per cent of Junior Basic Schools for girls are located within one kilometre of the

Table 11 : Distance of Educational Institutions for Girls in Uttarakhand Region (Schools in Percentage)

Distance of Schools	Districts								
	Uttar- kashi	Chamoli	Tehri	Garh- Garhwal	Dehra- wal	Pithor- Dun	Almora	Naini- ragarh	Uttarn- tal
<u>Less than 1 km.</u>									
Junior Basic Schools	85.17	79.30	85.60	71.58	86.34	63.43	75.56	80.04	76.11
Senior Basic Schools	2.72	1.73	4.02	6.85	8.17	2.77	1.43	4.32	3.88
High/Higher Secondary School	0.30	1.00	1.50	0.77	0.14	1.34	1.19	2.04	0.30
<u>1 - 3 Kms.</u>									
Junior Basic Schools	13.32	20.64	14.40	25.50	9.93	29.12	24.44	19.44	21.88
Senior Basic Schools	4.69	10.52	5.57	11.98	15.55	4.86	6.06	14.83	8.92
High/Higher Secondary Schools	1.22	2.99	3.09	4.06	4.71	4.16	6.03	8.53	4.66
<u>3 - 5 kms.</u>									
Junior Basic Schools	1.51	0.06	-	2.92	2.76	7.45	-	0.52	1.97
Senior Basic Schools	5.45	21.15	8.93	9.29	11.08	4.18	4.09	13.15	9.12
High/Higher Secondary Schools	1.55	6.72	10.27	4.86	6.37	3.89	4.96	9.62	6.11
<u>More than 5 kms.</u>									
Junior Basic Schools	-	-	-	0.97	-	-	-	-	0.04
Senior Basic Schools	87.14	65.60	81.48	71.88	66.20	88.19	88.12	67.70	78.08
High/Higher Secondary Schools	96.96	89.29	85.14	90.31	88.78	90.60	87.82	79.81	88.08

Note : The position of schools in 1994-95.

Source : Progress of Education in Uttar Pradesh (General), 1994-95 (Hindi), Directorate of Education, Allahabad, U.P.

distance. However, about 24 per cent Junior Basic schools are situated at a distance of more than one km. In district like Garhwal, most of the Junior Basic Schools for girls are situated at a distance of more than 5 kms. It is surprising to note that more than 78 per cent girls Senior Basic Schools and more than 88 per cent girls High/Higher Secondary Schools are located at a distance of more than 5 kms. (Table 11). One can understand the hardship for girls to cover the distance of this magnitude for getting education in the remote areas of Hills where several other problems are also associated with the habitants. Location problem of educational institutions has always been one of the main problems in promoting education and literacy programme in the hill areas. This particular factor is responsible for low participation of females in education process. Districtwise distances of the schools show a variation.

Participation of Women as Teachers

Not only the ratio of girl students is substantially lower than boys, but the share of female teachers in educational institutions is also very low in Uttarakhand. Data regarding the number of female teachers in 1994-95 reveals that the percentage of females in total numbers of teachers is 29.23 per cent in Junior Basic schools, 19.88 per cent in Senior Basic Schools and 17.36 per cent in High/Higher Secondary Schools (Table 12). District wise ratio of female teachers varied from 19.52 per cent in district

Table 12 : Participation of Women as Teachers in Different Levels of Educational Institutions in Uttaranchal Region

Districts	Percentage of Female Teachers in Educational Institutions					
	Jr. Basic Schools		Sr. Basic Schools		High/Hr. Secondary Schools	
	1980-81	1994-95	1980-81	1994-95	1980-81	1994-95
Uttarkashi	19.09	19.52	6.93	8.75	6.17	8.43
Chamoli	27.81	28.27	5.66	12.55	6.92	7.95
Tehri Garhwal	17.84	25.17	9.48	12.17	11.09	3.23
Garhwal	21.23	25.83	24.49	24.72	9.74	12.22
Dehradun	34.23	39.70	34.80	42.37	36.81	44.01
Pithoragarh	23.88	33.94	12.14	7.98	16.99	11.17
Almora	21.48	22.37	10.66	9.79	8.54	9.88
Nainital	25.20	31.82	25.59	25.03	26.21	25.97
Uttaranchal	24.03	29.23	17.78	19.88	19.29	17.36

Source : Educational Progress in Uttar Pradesh (General), 1994-95 (Hindi), Directorate of Education, Allahabad, U.P.

Uttarkashi to 39.70 per cent in Dehradun in Junior Basic Schools. Furthermore, in Senior Basic Schools, the variation in the ratio of female teachers is of a great magnitude. In district Pithoragarh, only 7.98 per cent teachers are females in Senior Basic Schools, whereas this figure is 42.33 per cent in district Dehradun. At High/Higher Secondary School level, a wide variation is recorded in the ratio of female

teachers and it varies from 3.23 per cent in district Tehri Garhwal to 44.01 per cent in district Dehradun (Table 12). A comparative picture of female teachers in two different years highlights that there has been a little growth in the ratio of female teachers in Junior Basic Schools between the period of 1980-81 and 1994-95, but their ratio has been declined from 19.29 per cent to 17.36 per cent during the same period in High/Higher Secondary School level. The profile of female teachers in educational institutions and the ratio of girl students in hill region presents a bleak picture as far as participation of female population in education process is concerned. The present picture of females' ratio as students as well as teachers and the past trend of development in this direction do not exhibit an appreciable scenario, particularly when the country is assuring "Education for All by 2000 AD".

Health and Social Infrastructural Facilities for Women

Development of infrastructure has been considered as a cause, as a consequence as well as an indicator of development. It has also been identified as an important process of economic development. Social infrastructures like, general education, technical education, roads, drinking water, electricity, public health, medical and family welfare have great role for development of a community. These facilities provide opportunities to human resource for

training and advancement with better health care which ultimately proves an asset for the nation.

It is now widely recognized that improvement in health status of a community has to be pursued both as means and as end. Increased availability of maternity and child care centres, Aanganwadi centres and other centres for social activities like Mahila Mandal centres are essential pre-conditions for the physical and mental development of female population. In the following pages we will discuss the availability and extent of maternity child care centres/sub-centres, Balwadi and Aanganwadi centres and Mahila Mandal Centres in the Uttaranchal region. The number of maternity and child care centres are 139, maternity and child care sub-centres are 1443 in the region. The number of Balwadi and Aanganwadi centres and Mahila Mangal Centres are 2628 and 3895 respectively (Table 13). On an average, one lakh of female population share 5 maternity and child care centres, 50 maternity and child care sub-centres, 90 Balwadi and Aanganwadi centres and 134 Mahila Mandal Centres. In other words, one maternity and child care centre is shared by 21000 female population, one maternity and child care sub-centre by 2000 females, one Balwadi and Aanganwadi by 1100 and one Mahila Mandal centre by 750 females.

District-wise figures in this regard reveals that there have been wide variation in the number of these welfare institutions. The number of maternity and child care centres is one for one lakh of female population in district

Table 13 : Health and Social Infrastructural Facilities for Women in
Uttaranchal Region (March 1994)

District	Maternity and Child care Centres		Maternity and child care Sub-centres		Balwadi and Aanganwadi Centres		Mahila Mandal Centres	
	Total Number	Per Lakh of Female Popula- tion	Total Number	Per Lakh of Female Popula- tion	Total Number	Per Lakh of Female Popula- tion	Total Number	Per Lakh of Female Popula- tion
Uttarkashi	4	3	64	55	275	239	262	228
Chamoli	19	8	126	55	166	72	726	319
Tehri Garhwal	10	3	162	54	323	108	737	247
Garhwal	16	4	214	61	304	86	623	209
Dehradun	4	1	129	27	433	92	217	46
Pithoragarh	22	8	193	68	Nil	Nil	52	18
Almora	29	6	240	55	527	120	687	157
Nainital	35	5	315	44	600	83	591	82
Uttaranchal	139	5	1443	50	2628	90	3895	134

Dehradun, whereas, this figure is 8 in the districts of Chamoli and Pithoragarh. Similarly, the number of Balwadi and Aanganwadi centres per lakh of female population is 72 in district Chamoli as against 239 in district Uttarkashi (Table 13). It is very strange that not a single Balwadi or Aanganwadi centre is functioning in district Pithoragarh. Mahila Mandal Centre is a grass-root social institution aiming at the welfare of womenfolk and bringing awareness among them. In most of the cases the Mahila Mandal centres are helpful in sorting out the day to day problems of women at household as well as village level. Women are also protected against their exploitation by these centres. Interactions are made with each other in the centres which motivate them to play effective role in the society. In Uttarakhand region, very few proportion of women are associated with Mahila Mandal centres because the centres are not established in all the villages and limited number of women participate in these centres due to one reason or other. In district Pithoragarh very few places the Mahila Mandal centres are working; registering 18 Mahila Mandal centres for one lakh of female population. As far as these centres are concerned, district Chamoli ranks first in all the districts in the region.

Distance of Family Welfare Centres

Expansion of infrastructural facilities is not itself a sufficient condition for deriving benefits from them. The

factors like, location and the areas where these facilities are existed are most important for people's participation and for taking benefits from these facilities. In the hill areas, the distance of available infrastructural facilities or social services determines the level of their use, particularly for female population. Now we will discuss the locational profile of family welfare centres and their sub-centres in the districts of Uttaranchal region. Family Welfare Centres play a crucial role in promoting the welfare programme of women related to their health, nutrition, sanitation, child care and family welfare. The family planning programmes are done by these centres and the success in this direction depends on their functioning. Family welfare centres or sub-centres are the grass root institutions in the villages.

The available data regarding the distance of Family Welfare Centres or Sub-Centres reveals that in most of the cases the female population have to cover long distance for availing the services of these institutions in the hill region. It becomes very difficult to take the sick or pregnant women for medical aid where the centres are located at a longer distance. The distance of more than 43 per cent Family Welfare Centres or Sub-Centres is more than 5 kms. and the proportion of such centres is about 20 per cent which are located at a distance of 3 to 5 kms. (Table 14) in the region. The welfare centres which are located in less than one kilometre constituted about 17.11 per cent.

Table 14 : Distance of Family Welfare Centres/Sub-Centres in the Districts of Uttarakhand Region

District	Distance of Family Welfare Centres/Sub-Centres				
	Less than one Km.	1 - 3 Kms.	3 - 5 Kms.	Above 5 Kms.	All
Uttarkashi	17.50	19.02	17.81	45.67	100.00
Chamoli	15.83	17.83	22.02	44.32	100.00
Tehri Garhwal	22.45	16.20	25.03	36.32	100.00
Garhwal	8.64	9.82	15.79	65.75	100.00
Dehradun	29.09	11.62	23.68	35.41	100.00
Pithoragarh	13.36	23.76	20.32	38.56	100.00
Almora	14.84	24.48	16.82	43.86	100.00
Nainital	26.47	30.62	26.53	16.38	100.00
Uttaranchal	17.11	19.32	20.19	43.38	100.00

WOMEN EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The Employment Market Information (EMI) data reveal that about 4.00 per cent of the total population of the region were employed in organised sector as on 31 March 1995. Public sector is the main employer with 85.60 per cent of the organised labour absorbed in it. In Public Sector, 13.60 per cent were employed under the Central Government, 44.76 per cent State Government, 35.13 per cent Semi-Government and remaining 6.51 per cent in local bodies.

In non-agricultural sector, a larger number of labour-force is employed in our country. According to 1990 Economic Census, about 249.90 lakhs non-agricultural enterprises are functioning in the country in which 697.85 lakh persons are employed. In Uttar Pradesh, the number of such enterprises are 26.33 lakhs employing 69.09 lakh persons.

The main activities in non-agricultural sector are related to mining, construction, repair and maintenance, electricity, water, gas, trade, commerce, hotel, restaurant, transport, communication, storage, social and community services and others. Economic census of 1990 counted 58808 non-agricultural enterprises/establishments in Uttarakhand region employing 349556 persons. Out of the total employment in these enterprises, the number of female workers are 34533 registering about 1.70 women workers per establishment. The proportion of females in the total workers engaged in non-agricultural enterprises is 9.88 per cent in the region (Table 15). Data related to female workers engaged in non-agricultural enterprises in the region reveals that the proportion of females is equal in both urban and rural areas. However, there has been variations in the proportions of female workers in the districts of Uttarakhand region. In district Chamoli, the proportion of females in total workers employed in non-agricultural establishments is lowest 7.25 per cent, followed by district Nainital (7.84 per cent) whereas it is highest 12.24 per cent in district Almora.

followed by district Dehradun (12.12 per cent). Except in district Almora and Nainital, the proportion of females in total workers employed in non-agricultural establishments is recorded higher in rural areas as compared to urban areas in all the districts of the region (Table 15).

Table 15 : District-wise Distribution of Women Workers Engaged in Non-Agricultural Establishments/Enterprises in Uttaranchal Region

District	Rural Area		Urban Area		Total	
	No. of Females in total Workers	Percentage of Females in total Workers	No. of females in total Workers	Percentage of females in total Workers	No. of females in total Workers	Percentage of females in total Workers
Uttarkashi	613	7.49	249	6.72	862	7.25
Chamoli	987	9.32	564	7.18	1551	8.41
Tehri Garhwal	976	9.07	541	6.62	1517	8.01
Garhwal	1806	12.25	1021	6.89	2827	9.57
Dehradun	2809	12.58	10124	12.00	12933	12.12
Pithoragarh	1419	12.96	738	10.33	2157	11.92
Almora	2071	11.50	1395	13.53	3466	12.24
Nainital	3764	7.44	5456	8.14	9220	7.84
Uttaranchal	14445	9.88	20088	9.88	34533	9.88

Source : Economic Census, Uttar Pradesh, 1990, Economic and Statistics Department, State Planning Institute, U.P., Lucknow.

FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

There are three main sources of unemployment data, namely, NSS, Census and Live Register of Employment Exchanges. National Sample Survey data are not available at regional and district levels and the Census data has its own conceptual and time-lag limitations.

According to 1991 census, the female population which is categorised as non-workers is 1875650 (about 64.81 per cent of female population) in Uttarakhand Region. The non-workers are comprised of children, old aged, students, etc. The children below 6 years of age constituted about 28.01 per cent in the category of non-workers among female population in the region. According to Live Register data of Employment Exchanges in Uttarakhand, unemployment increased from 1.94 lakhs to 2.58 lakhs during the period of 1985-90. However, during the period 1990-95, the unemployment declined from 2.58 lakhs to 2.18 lakhs as per the Live Register of Employment Exchanges. The possible reasons for this decline may be non-renewable of earlier registration after three years and no fresh registration due to people's agitation in Uttarakhand for separate Hill State.

Upto December 1997, the total number of applicants in Live register of Employment Exchanges in the region was 236462, in which the women candidates was 42926 constituting 18.15 per cent of the total (Table 16). The females are lagging behind even in the race of job-seekers in the region.

Table 16 : Number of Women Applicants Registered in the Employment Exchanges of Uttaranchal Region (December 1997)

District	No. of Applicants in the Live Register of Employment Exchanges	No. of Women Candidates in Women Live Register	Percentage of Candidates in Women Candidates in total No. of Applicants
Uttarkashi	11156	1315	11.79
Chamoli	17455	2404	13.77
Tehri Garhwal	20629	2290	11.10
Garhwal	26631	4809	18.06
Dehradun	70647	15601	22.08
Pithoragarh	19663	3386	17.22
Almora	30522	4511	14.78
Nainital	39759	8610	21.65
Uttaranchal	236462	42926	18.15

Source : Annual Report, 1997, Training and Employment Directorate, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow.

Perhaps due to adverse geographical conditions and lack of communication, the female candidates are unable to register their names as well as to renew their names. It has been observed that the unemployed youth of the remote areas are not aware about the provisions of Employment Exchanges due to lack of information. The Employment Exchanges are located mainly in urban areas and the participation of rural population in employment services is very low. The district-

wise data of applicants in the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges reveal that proportion of female candidates in total job seekers is relatively higher in those districts where the level of urbanization is higher and the urban towns are relatively more in numbers. In other words, the proportion of females in total number of applicants is relatively lower in the backward districts. In district Uttarkashi and Tehri Garhwal, the proportion of female candidates registered in Employment Exchanges is 10.79 per cent and 11.10 per cent whereas this proportion is 21.65 per cent in district Nainital and 22.08 per cent in Dehradun (Table 16).

The Employment services in Uttaranchal region presently is confined to the urban areas so far. Taking into the consideration the geographical situation, means of communication and the magnitude of distances, it is proposed to expand the Employment services to semi-urban and rural areas in order to provide information about job opportunities, training facilities, higher education in the area of self-employment. An outlay of Rs.60.00 lakhs has been proposed for Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

WOMEN WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN UTTARANCHAL

Women have been economically and socially weak. Though an equal partner of men, women have not an equal partnership in all walks of life. Keeping in view all the problems

related to women, the Government of U.P. has established a separate directorate for the welfare of women to improve their economic and social conditions. The backwardness of Uttarakhand region and its special problems caught the attention of the planners of the State Government as early as in the Third Five Year Plan. A separate Hill Development Department was created by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in the year 1973-74. Since the inception of this department, attention has been given to the development of agriculture and allied activities associated with it public utilities and other infrastructural facilities. The planned efforts for hill development through public expenditure are being made by taking into consideration of the specific problems and needs of the people in the region.

WOMEN WELFARE PROGRAMME IN UTTARANCHAL REGION DURING EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1992-97)

During the Eighth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs.35000 lakh was proposed, out of which Rs.1178.86 lakh was incurred at the end of the VIIth Plan period. The brief details of the physical and financial achievements of main continuing schemes of the Eighth Plan (1992-97) are given in Table 17.

WOMEN DAIRY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Dairy is one of the most effective means of subsidiary occupation for the rural people. It offers an additional source of income to the households, besides nutritional

Table 17 : Women Welfare Programme in Uttarakhand
During VIIth Five Year Plan

Scheme	Eighth Plan (1992-97)	Physical Achievement (1992-97)	Expenditure Nos. (Rs. Lakh)
1. Grant-in-aid to destitute widows	880.00	34920	
2. Grant in aid for rehabilitation of poor/destitute women for purchase of Sewing/Weaving Machines	7.28	1440	
3. Establishment of Shishushala & Balwadi Centres	2.75	3	
4. Marriage Incentives to the persons marrying widows who are below 35 years age	1.76	16	
5. Implementation of probation act	6.59	3	
6. Construction of working hostel	20.50	3	
7. Support to training-cum-employment programme for women (STEP)	1.60	700	
8. Marketing assistance to women entrepreneurs	30.00	37	
9. Mahila Jagriti Scheme	19.22	231	
10. Integrated Development of Women	121.00	2800	
11. Assistance to Mahila Mangal Dal	66.40	1475	
12. Establishment and Construction of Balika Niketan	21.76	4	
Total	1178.86		

support. Since there has been no industrial growth in Uttarakhand, dairy farming offers a great scope of employment and income generation to the milk producer. State Government

has given priority to the Dairy sector in the development of U.P. Hills, specially in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

The experience of the Eighth Five Year Plan shows that pure hilly tract of Uttaranchal has relatively less milk production in comparison to Tarai-Bhabhar area. Keeping in view the low milk production and limited milk marketable surplus, the dairies and chilling centres of the smaller processing capacities were set up. The functioning of village Dairy Cooperatives showed a very good response in benefiting the milk producers and their interest towards dairy cooperatives has given an indication that the Anand Pattern Cooperative System is an effective instrument for socio-economic change.

Women Dairy Development Project was initiated under the VIIIth Five Year Plan. Under its Phase-I, Almora, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal and Dehradun Districts were taken under the UNICEF support. The component of UNICEF support included the funds for support to women cooperatives, training, general awareness, cooperative education, motivation and literacy programme. But within a span of two years, funding was stopped by UNICEF. The State Government has supported this programme under the VIIIth Plan. Under Phase-II, four districts, Pithoragarh, Tehri Garhwal, Uttar Kashi and Chamoli were taken up under the financial assistances of Government of India (in STEP Yojana) and State Government. The duration of this project was three years. Keeping in

view some good results of the Women Development project, it is proposed to continue this project under entire period of Ninth Five Year Plan. It is proposed to spend Rs.1200 lakh under the Ninth Plan.

ACHIEVEMENT DURING EIGHTH PLAN

The achievement of on-going women development programmes in Uttarakhand region till 31st March 1996 is as follows :

PROPOSAL FOR WOMEN WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN
(1997-2002)

- Empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes and minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development;
- Greater emphasis on education of females and their empowerment;
- Emphasis on Informal and Adult Education for Female population;
- Universal coverage of Aanganwadi programmes;
- Establishment of Mahila Van Panchayats and Mahila Dairies in every village;
- Awareness programme for securing equality for economic independence;
- Schemes for the welfare of deserted women;
- Promotion of eco-friendly industries based on local agro-based raw materials and cottage and village industries by encouraging women-entrepreneurs.

For Women Welfare Programmes, an outlay of Rs.2460 lakh is proposed in the Ninth Five Year Plan for Uttaranchal region, out of which Rs.365 lakh under special component plan and Rs.165 lakh under Tribal Sub-Plan. The details of the welfare schemes are as follows :

1. Grant-in-aid to Destitute Widows :

Under this scheme, the grant of Rs.100 per month is given to destitute widows. During the end of the Eighth Plan an amount of Rs.880 lakh was incurred and a number of women beneficiaries was 34920. An outlay of Rs.1338 lakh is proposed for Ninth Five Year Plan to benefit the 17000

destitute widows. The existing rate of Rs.100 is to be increased to Rs.125 per month like Kisan Pension.

2. Grant-in-aid for Rehabilitation of Poor/Destitute Women for Purchase of Sewing/Weaving Machines

The poor women as well as the widows of soldiers are given sewing machines along with necessary tools and equipments. During the end of the Eighth Plan, Rs.7.28 lakh was incurred and 1440 women were benefited.

3. Shishushala in Sweeper Colonies and Slums

The poor women living in rural areas and urban slums go out for work to which their children are devoid of education and suffer from malnutrition. Keeping in view the problems associated with them, the scheme of setting up Shishushalas is being implemented. During the period of Eighth Plan (1992-97) an amount of Rs.2.75 lakh was spent and three Shishushalas were established. This scheme is proposed to be transferred to non-plan side.

4. Marriage Incentive to Persons Marrying Widows

This scheme is being implemented from 1991-92. Under the scheme persons marrying widows below the age of 35 years, the couple is rewarded Rs.11000. In this scheme an amount of Rs.1.76 lakh was incurred and 16 couples were benefited during the Eighth Plan. A sum of Rs.90.00 lakh is proposed to reward 818 couples during Ninth Five Year Plan.

5. Establishment and Building Construction of Balika Niketan

An outlay of Rs.165.00 lakh is proposed for the Ninth Five Year Plan period for construction of Balika Niketan. During Eighth Plan, one Balika Niketan has been established in Dehradun to cater for lodging, fooding and educational needs of destitute and poor girls of the age group 6 to 18 years. For this purpose, an amount of Rs.21.76 lakh was spent.

6. Mahila Jagriti Scheme

The right to equality for women is enshrined in article 16 of the Constitution of India. However, due to the burden of age-old socio-culture, discrimination and economic backwardness, women have not been given their due share in country's economic, social and political life as an equal partners with men. During Eighth Plan, an amount of Rs.19.22 lakh was incurred in establishing 231 Shivirs. The programme aims at securing quality for women would need to have their focus on creating awareness among women themselves of their rights under the programme.

7. Integrated Development of Women

The scheme for integrated development of women is proposed in selected areas for integration of on-going programmes, and to cover local innovative ideas and new

avenues in action for development of women in all sections of society in rural as well as urban areas. During Eighth Plan 2800 women were benefited under this programme and an amount of Rs.121.00 lakh was spent. An outlay of Rs.150.00 lakh is proposed for the Ninth Five Year Plan to benefit at least 8334 women in income generating trades.

8. Construction of Departmental Institution Building Except JJ Act

At present, different homes for poor, destitute children and women are running in hired buildings. The number of such institutions is 13. For the construction of these homes or institutions, an amount of Rs.380 lakh is earmarked in Ninth Five Year Plan.

9. Construction of Observation Homes

Section 1 of JJ Act 1986 clearly directs the State Government to establish and maintain as many observation home that may be necessary for keeping Juvenile during the pendency of enquiry. Each observation home shall not only provide accommodation, maintenance, medical aids but will also provide juvenile with facilities for constructive pre-occupation. At present, there are 6 observation homes in Uttarakhand region. The proposed outlay for such homes is Rs.65.00 lakh for Ninth Five Year Plan.

10. Apni Beti Apna Dhan

A new scheme called 'Apni Beti Apna Dhan' is proposed for which an outlay of Rs.188.00 lakh is earmarked for Ninth Five Year Plan. It is estimated that 6233 girls will be benefited during the period of Ninth Plan under this scheme.

11. Strengthening of District Level Offices and Headquarters

To speed up the welfare programme for poor and needy women and children, the new staff structure is created at district and block levels. For this purpose an outlay of Rs.50.00 lakh is proposed for Ninth Five Year Plan.